

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO CINCUSNAVEUR

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COMIDEASTFOR

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 140765

ALSO FOR POLADS

FOL REPEAT VICTORIA 329 ACTION SECSTATE INFO LONDON NAIROBI
PARIS PORT LOUIS DAR ES SALAAM DTD 13 JUN.

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L VICTORIA 329

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, INS, SE

SUBJECT: SEYCHELLES ONE WEEK AFTER COUP D'ETAT

REF: VICTORIA 307 AND PREVIOUS

1. CONDITIONS IN SEYCHELLES CONTINUED TO NORMALIZE OVER JUNE 11-12
WEEKEND WITH ANNOUNCEMENTS OF FURTHER REDUCTION IN HOURS OF CURFEW
(NOW IN EFFECT 2200-0500) AND REOPENING OF SCHOOLS JUNE 13. SALE OF
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES NOW PERMITTED DURING LUNCH TIME AND EARLY EVENING
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AT LICENSED SHOPS, BARS AND RESTAURANTS. RADIO BULLETINS BROADCAST
OVER PAST SEVERAL DAYS HAVE PROHIBITED DRINKING "ALONG PUBLIC ROADS"
AND URGED CITIZENRY TO ADOPT MORE RESPONSIBLE ATTITUDE TOWARD
DRINKING. (COMMENT: MOST OBSERVERS AGREE THAT EXCESSIVE DRINKING
WAS SIGNIFICANT SOCIAL PROBLEM BEFORE COUP D'ETAT).

2. ARMED CIVILIANS ARE ONLY IN EVIDENCE AT AIRPORT WHEN FLIGHT

MOVEMENTS ARE SCHEDULED. A FEW IRREGULARS IN CAMOUFLAGE UNIFORMS STILL STATIONED AT RADIO SEYCHELLES AND SOME OTHER KEY INSTALLATIONS.

3. IN PAST 72 HOURS, RENE'S REGIME HAS ANNOUNCED ADDITIONAL GOVERNMENT APPOINTMENTS. IN ALL BUT TWO CASES (INFORMATION/ADMINISTRATION AND AVIATION), SENIOR POSTS HAVE BEEN GIVEN TO SEYCHELLOIS. SOME FORMER BRITISH PERMANENT SECRETARIES HAVE BEEN RETAINED IN THEIR FORMER MINISTRIES AND GIVEN THE TITLE "ADVISOR." IMPORTANT POST OF SECRETARY TO THE CABINET HAS REPORTEDLY BEEN ABOLISHED AND ITS PRESENT INCUMBENT DAVID DALE, WHO IS PRESENTLY ON LEAVE IN UK, IS NOT EXPECTED TO RETURN. FULL LIST OF NEW GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WILL BE POUCHED THIS WEEK.

4. THREE-MAN TANZANIAN DELEGATION ARRIVED IN SEYCHELLES JUNE 10. BBC CORRESPONDENT AND TV CAMERA CREW WERE AT AIRPORT TO MEET FLIGHT BUT WERE KEPT AT A DISTANCE BY SECURITY POLICE. RENE WAS REPORTEDLY UPSET WITH MINISTER OF STATE FOR INFORMATION AND ADMINISTRATION JAMES MICHEL, WHO REFUSED TO ALLOW REPORTERS TO INTERVIEW VISITORS AND DECLINED EVEN TO IDENTIFY THEM. WE UNDERSTAND THAT RENE WAS ALSO PERTURBED WITH BRIEFING JACQUES HODOUL GAVE VISITING FOREIGN JOURNALISTS, FEELING THAT HODOUL HAD "OVERLY DRAMATIZED SITUATION" AND ERRED IN REFERRING TO "MARXIST" CHARACTER OF NEW GOVERNMENT.

5. WE HAVE RECEIVED UNCONFIRMED REPORT THAT AIRCRAFT WHICH CARRIED TANZANIAN DELEGATION ALSO TRANSPORTED BREN GUNS, GRENADES AND LARGE QUANTITY OF AMMUNITION. (COMMENT: IF REPORT OF ARMS DELIVERY IS ACCURATE, RENE'S SECURITY FORCES WOULD HAVE RECEIVED SIGNIFICANT BOOST SINCE WEAPONRY ON HAND AT TIME OF COUP WAS LIMITED TO RELATIVELY SMALL NUMBER OF AUTOMATIC RIFLES AND SUBMACHINE GUNS).
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MATTSON

UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Executive Order: GS
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Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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TAGS: PINT, PINS, SE
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